

Pear Maxine -

Sunday July 27

The lab is vacant today except for Peter Gilham and myself - that differentiates Sundays from week days for me. I had hoped to celebrate Sunday by cleaning up my hut - there's so much dirt on the floor it's frightening, but I've decided not to bother. After all, there are never any visitors. We have quite a drought in Vancouver, no rain in 4 weeks, only 3 days of rain since April. live on a dusty country road and there's a fair breeze most of the time. It sends dust, insects & stuff into my windows.

Today I had an inspiration — peanut butter for sandwiches! Jam is become so tiresome, especially since I finish one jar before opening the next. Strawberry jam sandwiches, all one week for 2 of the 3 meals, blueberry jam the next — it's monstrous. Cheese & meat are out because live no refrigerator. But peanut butter is quite practical.

I saw Princess Margaret yesterday during a 30 minute afternoon break. She was getting an honorary degree. The whole thing was delightfully absurd. First of all, there was practically nobody there — a thin row of people side by side — not

even two rows along the line of march of the academic procession. The faculty of this mediocre University were dressed up in fantastically elaborate academic gowns—mostly from English universities, and there were military men in fancy dress, including kilts. There were extremely pompous local dignitaries in top hats. The president of the university, a big old oaf, was ordering people about in grand style. Then with a flourish, up drove an open car flanked by 20 motor cycle police. The 50 Canadian Mounties in fancy red, sprang to attention. Out hopped this little slip of a girl, much tinier than Arilla who is smaller than Adelaide. She walked with a curious stoop & had a kind of loping gait which made her seem even tinier and younger—a mere teen ager. Her face was pretty and she had lovely sky blue eyes, but her expression was a sort of frozen smile. She did not respond to the patter of applause. She entered a building, to emerge minutes later in her academic robes & for a second time marched in front of me. Back to work.

I've enclosed the electron diagram of one of the runs done in the Cany — 180 O.D. units of Poly A digest and 20 O.D. units of AMP put in as

a marker. The digestion was carried to a point where 52% of Poly A was acid soluble in 3% cold perchloric. In n-prop-NH₂-H₂O one sees adenine, 5'-AMP, a faint pApA, some tri, tetra, penta + after 3 days C.I. hexa. I used, per 10 mg. poly A only 0.05 ml 4/30 (B.C., 12 hrs, 32° O-415

If the peaks are labeled correctly one sees at least a r. peak to correspond to oligonucleotides up to 10 units long. The later peaks are crowded - a more gentle gradient should have been used for them. Today I'm running more material on the Technicon collector using stepwise elution. It's not going especially well. 40 mg. poly A digest was used but more should have been prepared. The peaks are too broad + shallow.

These "Caryograms" are only an hour and a half's work, altho it's nerve wracking because the home made cell leaks and there are other complications. It might be fun to try a very "early" Poly U_v digest and pure RNA and

see what kind of a family the 2',3' cyclic nucleotides form. Only 200 O.D. units seem nicely (20 micromoles, 10 mg. poly U). If there happens to be some around perhaps you'd like to send me some and I'll run the experiment. Incidentally, I digested some poly AU with RNAase, using NH₃ to

adjust the pH to avoid salts. It's in the inner cold room — I never got to lyophilizing it. That would be nice to try on the Eckola column as well. If you find it, perhaps you wouldn't mind drying it down & sending it as well. Sorry to be of trouble.

I've made some 6-7 gms UMP and I'm on the second batch now. It's a fair amount of work but went smoothly on the whole. Next week I hope to tackle 5-CMP. The UDP prep. is at the amide stage.

Adelaide writes that it's dreadfully hot in Betties dr. I hope you're taking it reasonably easy and conserving your strength in the face of such brutal weather. It will be nice to see all of you again. It's rather lonesome here.

Best wishes,

Sincerely
Leon